GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN WEAPONS/WEAPON SYSTEMS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there has been inordinate delay in developing modern weapons and weapon systems in DRDO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to speed-up the process of developing modern weapons and weapon systems in the D.R.D.O.?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): DRDO is engaged in indigenous development of high technology weapon system and platforms. Sometimes there are delays in their timely completion due to following reasons:-

- Technological complexities.
- Technological embargo/sanctions and various control regimes.
- Non-availability of infrastructure within the country.
- Extended and long lasting user trials.
- Change and enhancement of user requirements mid stream.

(c) Government has taken following major steps to speedup the process of developing modern weapon system and weapon in the DRDO:-

- Ensuring timely review and monitoring for financial and technical progress through multi-tier review mechanisms.
- Encouraging joint funding by Services to ensure their commitment towards earliest completion.
- Adopting technology evaluation and assessment prior to taking up fresh projects.
- Promoting synergy and better coordination among user Services, DRDO and production agencies through cluster meetings.
- Adopting 'concurrent engineering' and 'joint venture' approach for development and production.